

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, as follows:

6/19/04
OK

Reference is hereby made to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. patent applications Application Serial Number 09/510,278, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971265~~], entitled "MECHANISM FOR DATA FORWARDING"; Application Serial Number 09/510,288, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971362~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENTLY UPDATING A FULLY ASSOCIATIVE ARRAY"; and Application Serial Number 09/510,282, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971366~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING AND VALIDATING THE MOST RECENT ADVANCE LOAD FOR A GIVEN CHECK LOAD" which disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 as follows:

6/17/04
OK

In a preferred embodiment, a fully associative table structure as is described in incorporated patent ~~application~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,282, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket No. 10971366~~], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING AND VALIDATING THE MOST RECENT ADVANCE LOAD FOR A GIVEN CHECK LOAD," may be cycled through a series of states by software executing in the compiler system. States A 102, B 102, C 104, and D105 preferably represent states which software may cycle a hardware structure (such as the fully associative table) through. States A 102 through D 105 are preferably the only legal states in state diagram 100.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 as follows:

6/17/04
OK

Herein, the term "prospective entry" generally refers to an entry at a port ready to be written to a location in a fully associative table, and the term "table entry" generally refers to an entry already present in a fully associative table. Prospective entries may be directed into a table because of a condition where a prospective entry matches a table entry. Alternatively, prospective entries may be directed into locations in a fully associative table as directed by a pointer which indicates a location of an invalid entry. These alternative mechanisms for writing entries into fully associative tables are further described in incorporated patent ~~application~~ Application Serial Number 09/510,288, filed February 21, 2000 [~~Attorney Docket~~